

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Final Office Action dated July 27, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

In the Office Action, claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,877,830 to Shimada. Claim 1 is also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,513,028 to Sono. Claims 4, 6, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sono. Applicants thank the Examiner for noting that claims 2 and 3 contain allowable subject matter, and for allowing claims 7-10 and 17-20.

Applicants cancel claims 1, 4-6, 11-16 and rewrite claims 2 and 3 in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 1. Applicants believe the foregoing arguments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: December 23, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By


George G. Ballas

Registration No.: 52,587

MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP

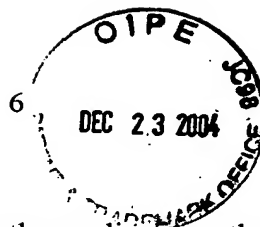
1900 K Street, N.W.

Washington, DC 20006

(202) 496-7500

Attorney for Applicant

Application No.: 10/025,904
Response dated December 23, 2004
Response to Office Action of July 27, 2004



Docket No.: 8733.525.00-US

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